



## Love Cursed

*Julia Derek*

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*This is an alternate cover edition for ASIN: B00LVQMPMS*

Ricki is in heaven when the guy she's crushed on forever asks her out. But after two months of dating, he suddenly dumps her, claiming he's no longer attracted to her. Convinced she's too fat, Ricki decides to get in the best shape of her life, using a trainer. That's when she meets dangerously hot and mysterious Dante, a boxing instructor and trainer at the gym she joins.

Former gang member Dante has problems. He must work twice as hard to keep his job when gym management learns he's on probation. In addition, he's trying to help his buddy get out of the gang. So the last thing he needs is a client like Ricki, who's annoyingly beautiful and inquisitive enough to uncover a tragic past Dante refuses to deal with. In order to stay at the gym and out of prison, he has no choice but to train her.

## Love Cursed Details

Date : Published November 2015 by Adrenaline Books (first published July 17th 2014)

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Author : Julia Derek

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## From Reader Review Love Cursed for online ebook

### Sue says

I had never read anything by this author before, but the description looked interesting so I gave it a try. It was a bit slow moving in parts and I wasn't sure how accurate the gang lifestyle information was, but it was an interesting and different kind of love story.

Dante is an EX gang member on parole and he has to maintain his job as a trainer to keep on the right side of the law. Enter Ricki...a woman with self esteem issues, body image insecurities and a need to prove herself worthy of being loved. Her former BF dumped her (his reasons we will discover later on, were valid) and she hopes that by working out and losing weight, she will be more desireable. Of course she and Dante eventually cross lines of their client/trainer relationship and things get pretty steamy as well as confusing, as Dante keeps pushing her away and trying to stay in the friend-zone.

The details of his childhood and tragic past love slowly get revealed and Ricki learns eventually why he is the way he is and together they eventually come to an understanding (but not before some scary things happen and Dante almost gets himself and a friend in serious trouble).

It was an action packed, but at times calm love story of two people from opposite lifestyles who find common ground.

\*\*\*\* 4 \*\*\*\* "what doesn't kill you only makes you a tougher woman" stars

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### Allie says

I was given an ARC to give an honest review.

Love Cursed is Ricki's story. I just loved her in Trigger and I'm happy I got to read her story. The book starts out with a real problem for Ricki when her current boyfriend just breaks up with her. She is hurt, confused and absolutely positive she isn't skinny or pretty enough. This leads her to join a gym and get into the best shape of her life. Here she meets Dante, a truly beautiful mysterious person. He has definitely not had a great life and he is working at the gym to try and make a better life for himself. They form a friendship over Ricki's misfortune during her first workout. Things proceed from there.

Ricki and Dante weren't so different. They both had issues with themselves that needed to be worked out. Ricki after failed relationships she has no self-esteem and feels unlovable. Dante grew up in a gang feeling like he was the cause of two important people's deaths. He feels unworthy of love and is convinced he's cursed.

Ricki and Dante were good for one another. They helped each other break through and decide that they did deserve love. They deserved it maybe more than anyone. Now there was drama and trials and tribulations and even when they didn't have each other, there was a great set of secondary characters. Of course there is no Ricki without Nina and she was there for it all. You meet Gabi another trainer at the gym who helps both Ricki and Dante. Of course we see Nixon also.

Love Cursed is about learning to love, trust and value yourself and the person you love. It shows you that if someone loves you and you love them sometimes that's enough and once you decide to be happy and let love in things will fall into place. I loved Ricki in Trigger and I love her even more now. I would absolutely

recommend this book!

Can't wait for the next book in the L.A. Girls series!

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### **beth myrick says**

#### **Giving it one star hesitantly**

one star because I did read it and didn't give up and forget this.

number one, are these two really supposed to be in their 20's, cause really my 11 yr old has more common sense going on than these two put together.

number two, that show of dominance the first time they were together was LAUGHABLE, cause the rest of the time he is so NOT dominate and the rest of the sexy scenes just not sexy at all

number three, really I was more interested in finding out if Jose was going to be okay so I kept reading it...not even caring any more about rikki and Dante, cause like I said they were beyond my interest anymore....and they should have been the reason for me to read the book.

ok, that's three reasons why I'm saying you probably might just wanna move along cause really I wish I would have. to be fair its really not the worst book I've endured after reading the blurb and getting excited, and I'm just pissed now cause that's not what I got.

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### **R.J. says**

The blurb for this book captured me from the very beginning and I loved the angle of reading a love story from a reformed gang member, sort of a bad boy come good. The build up of the relationship of the characters is slow and steady until they cave into their mutual attraction and sparks fly. Ultimately this slow build up establishes a friendship between Ricki and Dante before they get together which makes their relationship so believable.

The author has a flare for making the characters come to life in their conversations with each other and I really loved the way that the book built up to such a dramatic ending. Both of them learn how that by letting go of their fears they are allowing themselves to find the happiness that they both deserve. I was so pleased that it ended with a happy ever after and not a cliff hanger and I'll definitely be on the look out for more books by this author!

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### **Victoria Rainey says**

Love Cursed is the second book in the L. A. Girls series by Julia Derek. While this book is part of a series, it can be read and enjoyed as a standalone novel with ease.

Ricky after being crushed once again decides her physical appearance must be the reason she can't land a date. Therefore, she signs up at a gym with a personal trainer to help her work out and get a firmer, better body. Ricky's biggest problem is she has little athletic ability. Ricky is a spirited woman who is very upfront with everyone around her and does not play games.

Dante is a former gang member that is on probation. He has to stay on the straight and narrow until his probation term is up. However, Dante is not to associate with anyone in his past so he sneaks around to help a friend get out of the gang. When work requests he double is workload so he will quit. This pushes Dante to contact Ricky and in an effort to help her heal from her injury, she had trying to work out.

The connection between Dante and Ricky is blistering. The Ms. Derek did a great job of making the reader feel the connection. Dante and Ricky belonged together. The sex scenes were steamy.

This book is very well written with an overall plot was very believable. While just like the first book in the series, the author switched the point of view with each new chapter but the transition was much better and easier to follow. I did not feel as lost as I did with the first book. The main and secondary characters were fascinating. While the ending was a bit predictable, the journey was filled with interesting twists and turns. Overall, this was an outstanding book. I can't wait to read the next book in the series.

\*\*I received this book from the author in exchange for my honest review

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### **English woman in New York says**

I was given an ARC to give an honest review. Julia Derek has followed up her opening book (Trigger) in her LA Girls series with another winner. Once again, Derek delivers an intriguing plot, finely-drawn characters and hot physical encounters that are unusually well-written and authentic. The female protagonist was introduced to readers in her earlier book, Trigger, and Derek fleshes this character out to be totally believable and someone with whom the reader swiftly empathize. Derek's depiction of feisty yet vulnerable female protagonists is excellent.

Derek's male protagonist is a strong alpha male character but with a softer side, and both female and male readers will relate well to him. He has a shady past in the gangster world, and this appears to have been well-researched and rings true.

In this novel I believe that Derek has focused more on the connection between the protagonists and this is a sure sign of her increasing maturity as an author. As in Trigger, the minor characters are well-crafted and memorable and, as noted in the "About the Author" section at the end of the book, her next novel in the series will be focused on Gabi, a minor character introduced in Love Cursed. Overall, another excellent read from Derek who is shaping up to be a serious player in this genre. I look forward with eager anticipation to her next offering.

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### **Safiyah says**

A very sweet romance with the right amount of intensity that allows it to be an engaging read. I liked the idea of the personal trainer and the gang element as it gave the book a touch of realness as well as making

the plot more serious.

Character wise Dante was cute. My only criticism being the solving of the final climax...I think he bought the "save" idea a bit too fast to be realistic. A finer more detailed internal monologue may have been a more convincing turn.

Ricki was a person who had flaws I.e. her unbearable level of noseyness but in my opinion most of the best characters in books are those that have flaws.

Towards the other characters in the book Jose managed to garner sympathy, gabri and nina both come across as sweet friends. I didn't understand why the author highlighted so repetitively the 'gay'idea though... Nixon, Aidon and half of the guys Dante tried. Playing the homosexual card a bit hard on my opinion.

Overall a book I would recommend. Not because of it being very original but rather because it is one of those feel good books that leave you with a smile.

I go with a 3.5 stars for Julia Derek's loved cursed.

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### **Vicky says**

DNF

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### **Victoria says**

Is a great book to read forever and ever

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### **Sharena says**

#### **Loved it!**

I loved reading this book about 2 different people from 2 different worlds finding true. I have nothing at all that I don't like about the story. It was fun, sad, weird, and all that other good stuff. I will definitely re-read and search for more written by this author. GREAT STORY! :)

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### **Kimberley says**

I loved the cover.

The synopsis was intriguing.

Writing was ok.

I'm not going to rip it apart because everyone has different tastes... just didn't appeal to me.

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### **Medavis66 says**

This is the second book I've read by Julia Derek. I have enjoyed both and look forward to Gabi's story next. I liked Dante and Nicki, as well as Nina and Nixon, in this story. The 3 N's were good friends that really talked and supported each other. Dante was a good guy that had a really rough start in life. Some of his past choices had been bad ones, but he was making up for it now with his clean life and by helping his friend, Jose. Sometimes the insecurities of the main two characters got on my nerves, but they were justified, so I understood why they felt that way. I do hope we get cameos of this couple throughout Julia's next book.

ARC provided in exchange for honest review.

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